

# **Creating Characters that Work through Better Dialogue**

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Conflict: what readers love

- Rubber bands and tension
- When should the conflict start?
- Can characters be in conflict when they're talking

Voice: the key to engaging readers

- If a reader is attracted to the character, she'll follow
- Finding the balance between exposition, action, and dialogue
- Oversharing...should readers know every characters' point of view

Pacing: leave your readers breathless...almost

- Short sentences vs. long and using variety
- Let your characters describe the setting by relating what it means to her
- How much should your characters share?

Silence is golden...shouting divine

- Emotions can be expressed with, and without, words
- Use a variety of speech patterns and character actions to keep readers engaged

Don't be afraid of commitment

- What happens when a character expresses a goal
- When characters have opposing goals

The big secret about dialogue

- What's the difference between people talking "at" and "to" each other?
- Things to avoid: names, answering questions, information